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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,152	11/30/2001	Harlan M. Hugh	18333-300301	3687

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EXAMINER
HAILU, TADESSE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/007,152	HUGH, HARLAN M.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Tadesse Hailu	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 November 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-26* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-9,11,12,15,16,18,21 and 23-26* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) *10,13,14,17,19,20 and 22* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *30 November 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office Action is in response to the patent application (10/007,152) filed on

11/31/2001.

2.   The current patent application claims priority from US Application 09/919,656

filed 7/31/2001.

3.   The pending claims 1-26 are examined herein as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the
United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application
by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this
title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act

of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical

Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting

directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior

to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4.   Claims 1-9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated

by Jeyaraman (US 6,311,187).

With regard to claim 1:

Jeyaraman discloses a method of updating a common data source of data items (see Abstract) and associations among said data items, wherein said common data source being accessible by more than one client storing copies of at least two of said data items (column 5, lines 2-5) and at least one association between at least two data items, and wherein at least one of said data items is a data item ("thought") capable of being interactively modified, created, or interconnected by at least one of said clients (see abstract, column 5, lines 6-16).

Jeyaraman further discloses receiving a request from a client to modify a data item (Fig. 3, column 5, lines 19-32).

Jeyaraman also discloses updating said data source according to said request (column 3, lines 42-54, column 5, lines 33-54).

With regard to claim 2:

As illustrated in Fig. 3, a client requests an update from a Server, and the client is allowed for update or the client is confirmed (see Fig. 3, #318).

With regard to claim 3:

Jeyaraman also discloses modifying or updating said data item (abstract).

With regard to claim 4:

Jeyaraman also discloses that said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients operates on said data item (column 5, lines 6-16).

With regard to claim 5:

Jeyaraman also discloses that said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients (clients 206, 208, and 212, Fig. 2) modifies said data item (abstract, column 5, lines 6-16).

With regard to claim 6:

Jeyaraman also discloses that said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients deletes (delete operation) said data item (column 5, lines 55-67, column 6, lines 58-66).

With regard to claim 7:

Jeyaraman also discloses that said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients activates (or manipulates) hierarchically structured data ("thought") (column 5, lines 55-67).

With regard to claim 8:

Jeyaraman also discloses that said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients creates a new data item ("thought") (column 7, lines 25-40).

With regard to claim 9:

Jeyaraman also discloses that said receiving step is done any time one of said more than one clients creates a new interconnection between at least two of said data items ("thoughts") (column 7, lines 50-67).

With regard to claim 11:

Jeyaraman discloses a method for a first client to update a common data source that is accessible by a second client (abstract, column 5, lines 6-16), said common data source having data items and associations between data items, said first client

storing a local version of said common data source (column 5, lines 6-16, column 9, lines 65-column 10, lines 7).

Jeyaraman also discloses recording modifications made to said local version (abstract).

Jeyaraman also discloses sending said recorded modifications to said common data source (column 5, lines 55-67, column 6, lines 58-column 7, lines 3).

Jeyaraman also discloses storing changes in said associations with respect to said modifications (abstract).

With regard to claim 12:

Jeyaraman discloses a method for a common data source that is accessible by more than one client (client 206, 208, 210 and 212 of Fig. 2) to update at least one of said clients that stores a local version of said common data source, said common data source having data items and associations between data items (abstract, column 5, lines 6-16).

Jeyaraman also discloses detecting data items missing from said local version (column 1, lines 18-23).

Jeyaraman also discloses sending said missing data items to said local version (column 5, lines 33-54, column 7, lines 25-40).

Jeyaraman also discloses updating said missing data items and associations with said missing data items in said local version (abstract, column 5, lines 33-54, column 7, lines 25-40).

5.   <u>Claims 15, 16, 18, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being</u>

<u>anticipated by Souder et al (US 5,724,556).</u>

<u>With regard to claim 15:</u>

Souder discloses an apparatus (Fig. 2) for a client to modify the display of indicia

of at least a first data item and a second data item and at least one association

between those two data items (column 2, lines 53-column 3, lines 10).

Souder also discloses a first repository storing said first data Item (Fig. 6; #610).

Souder also discloses a second repository storing said second data item (Fig. 6.

#620).

Souder also discloses a third repository storing said association between said

first data item and said second data item (Fig. 6, #630) (column 10, lines 36-59).

<u>With regard to claim 16:</u>

Souder also discloses an intermediary receiving a request from said client and

providing interface to said first repository and said second repository (Figs. 6 and 7,

column 6, lines 20-39).

<u>With regard to claim 18:</u>

Souder also discloses that said intermediary addresses said request to said first

and second repositories with respect to said first and said second data items,

respectively. (Figs. 6 and 7, column 6, lines 20-39).

<u>With regard to claim 21:</u>

Independent claim 21, while not necessary identical in scope, contain limitations

similar to independent claim 15 and therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

6.   Claims 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scott

et al (US 5,675,752).

With regard to claim 23:

Scott discloses a method of associating a display of more than one items of

content (see Figs. 3, 5, 6, etc) in conjunction with a display of an indication of a single

data item (see the data items in the hierarchy tree).

Scott discloses creating a record of an identity of said data item and an identity of

each of said more than one items of content with reference to said identity of said data

item (column 10, lines 6-25).

Scott also discloses referencing said record when said data item is selected

(column 21, lines 27-38, column 28, lines 15-29).

Scott also discloses displaying indicia of said more than one items of content

(Figs. 3, 5, 6, etc, column 23, lines 36-55).

With regard to claim 24:

Scott also discloses a method for conveniently emphasizing the display of

secondary relationships among items of data (see the hierarchy tree display

relationship in Figs. 3, 5, 6, etc).

Scott also discloses displaying a first item of data (e.g., root data) (Figs. 3, 5, 6,

etc).

Scott also discloses at least one primary relationship to a second item of data

(see the relationship in Figs. 3, 5, 6, 3tc).

Scott also discloses at least one secondary relationship between said second item of data and a third item of data (see the relationship in the hierarchy tree) (Figs. 3, 5, 6, etc).

Scott also discloses displaying emphasis upon said second relationship and said third item of data in response to interaction with said second item of data (see the selection made in Fig. 8A, or Fig. 10).

With regard to claim 25:

Scott also discloses that said emphasis is displayed by reducing (reduce command) the emphasis displayed with respect to said primary item of data, and said primary relationship (column 14, lines 42-54, column 24, lines 8-24).

With regard to claim 26:

Scott also discloses said emphasis is displayed by increasing (expand command) the emphasis displayed with respect to said secondary relationship and said third item of data (column 14, lines 32-41).

Allowable Subject Matter

7.   Claims 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
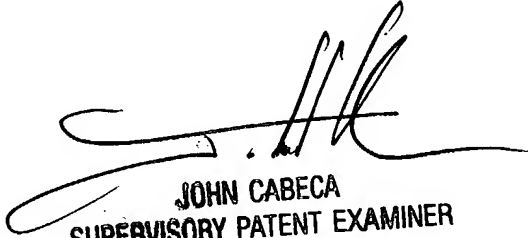
CONCLUSION

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (571) 273-4051. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 - 630 ET. If attempts

to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, John

Cabeca, can be reached at (571) 273-4048 Art Unit 2173.

6.   Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is

(703) 305-3900.

TH
9/17/2004

JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100